

From: Andrew Stewart/DC/USEPA/US
Sent: 10/21/2010 6:21:32 PM

To: Suzanne Kelly/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
CC:
Subject: Re: Fw: Greenwire: Pa., oil company at odds over contaminated wells (10/20/2010)

Sue - many thanks,

-Andrew

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From: Suzanne Kelly/DC/USEPA/US
To: "Andrew Stewart" <Stewart.Andrew@epamail.epa.gov>
Date: 10/21/2010 07:40 AM
Subject: Fw: Greenwire: Pa., oil company at odds over contaminated wells (10/20/2010)

Fyi about dimock pa

----- Original Message -----
From: Stephanie Flaherty
Sent: 10/20/2010 01:26 PM EDT
To: Cynthia Dougherty; Ann Codrington; Elizabeth Corr; Chitra Kumar; Keara Moore; Suzanne Kelly; Roy Simon
Subject: Greenwire: Pa., oil company at odds over contaminated wells (10/20/2010)

WATER POLLUTION: Pa., oil company at odds over contaminated wells (10/20/2010)

[http://adserver.eenews.net/www/delivery/ck.php?oaparams=2_bannerid=1011_zoneid=87_source=click to_cb=35e2ba53e5_oadest=http://www.worldshalegas.org](http://adserver.eenews.net/www/delivery/ck.php?oaparams=2_bannerid=1011_zoneid=87_source=click_to_cb=35e2ba53e5_oadest=http://www.worldshalegas.org)The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and an oil and gas company continue to fight over a proposed \$11.8 million water line to be built to provide water for residents with contaminated supplies.

The state has blamed Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. for methane contamination in 18 wells in Dimock Township, Pa., pointing to what it says are conclusive tests that show excessive pressure and faulty casings led to Cabot's natural gas wells leaking methane from above the Marcellus Shale into the water wells. Gas found in the wells matches that found leaking from nearby Cabot wells, the state says.

But Cabot has been denying it is responsible since late last month, when the state environmental department announced that Pennsylvania American Water Co. will build the 5.5-mile water main to supply those residents with new water. The state then will "aggressively seek to recover the cost of the project from Cabot," according to DEP Secretary John Hanger.

"DEP was forced to take action since Cabot continues to deny responsibility for the contamination, despite overwhelming evidence of its responsibility," Hanger said in a letter released yesterday. "Since that announcement was made, Cabot has launched a public relations campaign and much misinformation has been brought forth concerning who will be party to that solution and who will end up paying for it."

Cabot spokesman George Stark said in a press release yesterday that only four of the wells have levels exceeding the U.S. mercury limit and that the company has provided "substantial and persuasive proof that methane gas has been present in water wells in and around the Dimock area for generations."

DEP said that it would continue to test the wells until Nov. 1, when Cabot is required to clean the methane from the water ([Luzerne County \[Pa.\] *Citizens Voice*](#), Oct. 20). -- **AP**